

AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (new) Overhead transport system able to actuate the selective drawing of garment lots, comprising:

a support rail (1) for a plurality of garment hangers, each hanger having a hook G, the support rail being provided, on the top, with a longitudinal groove (2), with a U-shaped section, having a bottom and sides;

drawing means (7) that runs in a closed circuit along the support rail (1), said drawing means (7) being provided with a regular sequence of protruding features (7a) defining between them a sequence of hollows (7b) and therefore capable of interfering with hooks (G) of the hangers hanging on said support rail (1);

one or more tracks (5) situated in said longitudinal groove (2), in order to contain and guide the forward motion of said drawing means (7), said one or more tracks (5) vertically sliding into said longitudinal groove (2) and said one or more tracks (5) being provided with a top stop abutment and a bottom stop abutment, and

lifting means (4) disposed in the bottom of said longitudinal groove (2), under said one or more tracks (5), wherein

said lifting means (4) being capable of lifting said one or more tracks (5) until said top stop abutment of said one or more tracks (5) abuts against a top stop abutment (2b) of said support rail, so that the protruding features (7a) of the drawing means (7) interfere with the hooks (G) of the hangers hanging on said support rail (1), and

said lifting means (4) being capable of lowering said one or more tracks (5) until said bottom stop abutment of said one or more tracks (5) abuts against a bottom stop abutment (2c) of said support rail, so that the protruding features (7a) of the drawing means (7) do not interfere with the hooks (G) of the hangers hanging on said support rail (1).

Claim 14 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said system comprises a sequence of liftable tracks (5) with a rigid structure, each one of them being associated with a lifting means (4).

Claim 15 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said system comprises a single continuous liftable track (5), with a slim and flexible structure, associated with a sequence of lifting means (4).

Claim 16 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said lifting means (4) consist of tube segments (4), of circular section, placed longitudinally on the bottom of said longitudinal groove (2), capable of being inflated and deflated wherein the section profile of the tube segments are modified to alter the height of the tube segments, said one or more tracks (5) forming a saddle (5a) which cooperates with the profile of the tube segments (4).

Claim 17 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said top stop abutment and bottom stop abutment of the one or more tracks (5) consist of a pair of steps (5c) on the opposed sides of said track, said top stop abutment of said support rail consists of two teeth (2b), and said bottom stop abutment of said support rail consists of two steps (2c).

Claim 18 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said system comprises a fixed track (3a) situated in a second longitudinal groove (3) of said support rail (1) under said first longitudinal groove (2), said fixed track being totally enclosed and not communicating with the

said first longitudinal groove (2), said fixed track (3a) being suitable to containing and guiding the drawing means (7) during its return travel, parallel and in opposite direction with respect to the "operational" travel wherein the drawing means (7) are delimited and contained by the said liftable one or more tracks (5)

Claim 19 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein a top of said support rail (1) has rounded profile consisting of an opposed pair of identical strips (6) applied to the sides of the U-shaped section of said longitudinal groove (2) of the support rail (1), the strips (6) forming a longitudinal slot (6a), the longitudinal slot being only slightly wider than the protruding features (7a) of the drawing means (7).

Claim 20 (new) System according to claim 13, wherein said support rail (1) has a longitudinal absorbing profile (8) suitable for interfering with a sub-vertical section of the hanger hooks (G) hanging on the support rail (1).

Claim 21 (new) System according to claim 20, wherein said support rail (1) has, on the opposite side of said absorbing profile (8), horizontal plates (1a) for the connection to appropriate support means.